

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for purifying VWF, ~~characterized by comprising the step of~~ carrying out at least one hydroxylapatite flow chromatography.
2. (Currently Amended) The process for purifying VWF, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising the steps of:
 - (i) ~~contacting a~~ composition containing VWF and one or more contaminating proteins ~~is contacted with~~ a hydroxylapatite matrix so as to bind at least one contaminating protein to the hydroxylapatite matrix, while VWF is substantially not bound to the hydroxylapatite matrix, and optionally
 - (ii) ~~separating unbound VWF is separated from~~ the hydroxylapatite matrix.
3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, characterized in that VWF is found in the flow and at least one contaminating protein is bound to hydroxylapatite.
4. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 2, characterized in that the contaminating protein is fibronectin or fibrinogen.
5. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that hydroxylapatite chromatography is carried out at a pH of 6.5 to 8.0, preferably 6.8 to 7.5.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, characterized in that a solution containing sodium phosphate and/or potassium phosphate is used as the running buffer.
7. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, characterized in that VWF is bound to a hydroxylapatite matrix in ~~another a~~separate chromatographic step and then eluted.
8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7, characterized in that in ~~another the separate chromatographic step comprises:~~
 - (a) binding VWF ~~is bound to~~ the hydroxylapatite matrix,
 - (b) washing out impurities ~~are washed out~~, and
 - (c) eluting the VWF containing fraction of interest ~~is then eluted at a higher salt concentration.~~
9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that in step (a) a composition containing VWF, one or more contaminating proteins and 1 to 200 mM, ~~preferably 1 to 50 mM~~, sodium and/or potassium phosphate, is contacted with the hydroxylapatite matrix.
10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~8 or 9~~, characterized in that in step (b) the hydroxylapatite matrix is washed with a buffer containing 100 to 300 mM, ~~preferably 150 to 250 mM~~, sodium and/or potassium phosphate.
11. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 8 to 10~~claim 8, characterized in that in step (c) the VWF containing fraction of interest is eluted with a buffer containing 200 to 500 mM, ~~preferably 250 to 400 mM~~, sodium and/or potassium phosphate.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 7 to 11~~claim 7, characterized in that hydroxylapatite chromatography is carried out at a pH of 5 to 7.5, ~~preferably 5.5 to below 6.8~~.
13. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, characterized in that flow chromatography with hydroxylapatite is initially carried out, such that VWF ~~not binding~~ does not bind to the hydroxylapatite matrix, and then the flow fraction is re-chromatographed under binding conditions and the VWF fraction is eluted.
14. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~claim 1, characterized in that a previously purified plasma fraction is used as ~~the~~a starting material.
15. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~claim 1, characterized in that ~~another~~a separately purified cryoprecipitate solution is used as ~~the~~a starting material.
16. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1, characterized in that a cryoprecipitate solution precipitated with aluminum hydroxide is used as ~~the~~a starting material.
17. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~claim 1, characterized in that a chromatographically pre-purified cryoprecipitate solution precipitated with aluminum hydroxide is used as ~~the~~a starting material.

18. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 17~~claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~further comprising the step of carrying out a pH precipitation
~~is carried out prior to the hydroxylapatite chromatography to separate fibronectin.~~
19. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~claim 1,
characterized in that a VWF containing protein solution from cell culture
supernatants is used as ~~the~~a starting material.
20. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 19~~claim 1,
characterized in that hydroxylapatite is used ~~which~~ contains fluoride ions.
21. (~~Canceled~~) ~~Use of hydroxylapatite for purifying VWF.~~
22. (Currently Amended) A VWF containing composition ~~obtainable~~obtained by a
the process according to any of claims 1 to 20claim 1.
23. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~
~~it is~~ comprising a purified VWF preparation.